

**REPLY UNDER 37 CFR §1.116**  
**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:	§	Docket No. P11712.00 / 31849.35
Shores et al.	§	
	§	
Serial No.: 10/698,638	§	Customer No. 27683
	§	
Filed: October 31, 2003	§	Group Art Unit: 3733
	§	
For: COUPLING SYSTEM FOR	§	Examiner: Cumberledge, Jerry L.
SURGICAL INSTRUMENT	§	
	§	Confirmation No.: 3375

Mail Stop: AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**  
**MAILED FEBRUARY 22, 2008**

**I. Introductory Remarks**

The present paper is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed February 22, 2008.

No fees, including extension of time fees, are believed necessary for consideration of the present paper. However, if any fees are necessary, including extension of time fees, the extension of time is hereby requested, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, including those for the extension of time, to Haynes and Boone, LLP's Deposit Account No. 08-1394.

The **Listing of Claims** begins on page 2.

**Remarks** begin on page 9.